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PATENT
Customer ID: 25094

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	Mikael O. Weighlt, et al.
Serial No.	09/975,226
Filing Date:	October 11, 2001
Group Art Unit:	2122
Examiner:	Unknown
Title:	General Revenue Management Data Model for Revenue Management

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Certification Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 8, 2002.

Carolyn J. Williams

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is filed in regard to United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/975,226 entitled "Generic Revenue Management Data Model for Revenue Management," filed October 11, 2001. Please enter this Preliminary Amendment prior to examination of the application as follows:

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner approve the separation of FIGURE 4 into FIGURE 4A and FIGURE 4B. As illustrated in the FIGUREs, FIGURE 4A and FIGURE 4B represent different portions of the entity relationship diagram 400 of original FIGURE 4. Thus, previous FIGURE 4 has simply been divided into FIGUREs 4A and 4B. No new matter has been added. Additionally, lines that were "cut off" or faint in the original informal drawings have been included in FIGURE 2 and "resource demand 240" has been

placed in-line with "resource 210," rather than to the right side. Again, Applicants respectfully submit the content of the drawings remains substantially the same and that no new matter has been added. A redlined copy of the FIGURE 2 and FIGURE 4 and three (3) pages of drawings have been included under separate cover. Applicants respectfully request approval of the drawings.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

A marked up copy of the amended paragraphs is attached hereto as "Exhibit 1." Please replace paragraphs [0018], [0045], [0051], and [0052] with the following paragraphs:

[0018] FIGUREs 4A and 4B show an entity relationship diagram for one example of a database for representing revenue management problems according to the present invention.

[0045] Referring now to Figures 4A and 4B, one example of entity relationship diagram 400 is shown for one embodiment of a database incorporating generic revenue management data model 125 for revenue management in a transportation revenue industry. It should be noted that FIGUREs 4A and 4B present different portions of the same entity relationship diagram. For the sake of explanation, entities 405-435 appear in FIGURE 4B and entities 435-485 appear in FIGURE 4A. In entity relationship diagram 400, data set entity 405 can be used to distinguish multiple data sets, thus allowing several data sets to be maintained simultaneously. Data set entity 405 can contain a data set ID so that the various data sets can be appropriately identified. If a revenue manager was servicing multiple clients at the same time, data set ID could ensure that the different data sets would not be combined or commingled.

[0051] Incidentally, in FIGUREs 4A and 4B, a circle such as circle 431 (FIGURE 4B) indicates that an entity need not exist. For example, in entity relationship diagram 400, circle 431 indicates that total demand function entity 415 need not exist for total demand entity 410 to exist. A triangle or crowfoot, such as triangle 432 (FIGURE 4B), indicates that many entities may exist if a parent entity exists. In the case of entity relationship diagram 400, triangle 432 could indicate that for each total demand entity 410, many total demand function entities, such as total demand entity 415, could exist. Thus, none to many total demand functions can exist

for each total demand. A dash, such as dash 433, indicates that at least one such entity should exist if the dependent entities exist. For example, if there is at least one total demand function entity 415, there should be at least one total demand entity 410. To summarize, in the case of entity relationship diagram 400, there can be zero to many total demand function entities for each total demand entity, but and if there is at least one total demand function entity, there should be at least one total demand entity.

[0052] Returning now to the entities included in entity relationship diagram 400 of FIGURE 4A, resource entity 435 can represent the network resources. Resource entity 435 can include a data set ID to associate resource entity 435 with the appropriate data set, a resource ID to identify a particular resource, a maximum capacity to represent the maximum accommodation for the resource, a maximum physical capacity to represent the actual physical capacity available for a resource and expected use capacity to represent the probable use for the resource. It should be noted that the maximum capacity might exceed the actual physical capacity of a resource. For instance, as most travelers have experienced, airlines often overbook flights by allowing for a maximum capacity on a plane that is greater than the actual physical capacity of the plane.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added to the present application. The amendments to the specification simply reflect the separation of original FIGURE 4 into FIGUREs 4A and 4B. The Applicants appreciate the time taken by the Examiner to review this Preliminary Amendment and respectfully request the Examiner enter the Amendment and approve the Drawings.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0456 of Gray Cary Ware & Freidenrich, LLP.

Gray Cary Ware & Freidenrich LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

John L. Adair
Reg. No. 48,828

Date: January 8, 2002

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.111

EXHIBIT 1

[0018] FIGUREs 4**A and 4B show** **[is]** an entity relationship diagram for one example of a database for representing revenue management problems according to the present invention.

[0045] Referring now to Figures 4**A and 4B**, one example of entity relationship diagram 400 is shown for one embodiment of a database incorporating generic revenue management data model 125 for revenue management in a transportation revenue industry. **It should be noted that FIGUREs 4A and 4B present different portions of the same entity relationship diagram. For the sake of explanation, entities 405-435 appear in FIGURE 4B and entities 435-485 appear in FIGURE 4A.** In entity relationship diagram 400, data set entity 405 can be used to distinguish multiple data sets, thus allowing several data sets to be maintained simultaneously. Data set entity 405 can contain a data set ID so that the various data sets can be appropriately identified. If a revenue manager was servicing multiple clients at the same time, data set ID could ensure that the different data sets would not be combined or commingled.

[0051] Incidentally, in FIGUREs 4**A and 4B**, a circle such as circle 431 **(FIGURE 4B)** indicates that an entity need not exist. For example, in entity relationship diagram 400, circle 431 indicates that total demand function entity 415 need not exist for total demand entity 410 to exist. A triangle or crowfoot, such as triangle 432 **(FIGURE 4B)**, indicates that many entities may exist if a parent entity exists. In the case of entity relationship diagram 400, triangle 432 could indicate that for each total demand entity 410, many total demand function entities, such as total demand entity 415, could exist. Thus, none to many total demand functions can exist for each total demand. A dash, such as dash 433, indicates that at least one such entity should exist if the dependent entities exist. For example, if there is at least one total demand function entity 415, there should be at least one total demand entity 410. To summarize, in the case of entity relationship diagram 400, there can be zero to many total demand function entities for

each total demand entity, but and if there is at least one total demand function entity, there should be at least one total demand entity.

[0052] Returning now to the entities included in entity relationship diagram 400 of FIGURE 4A, resource entity 435 can represent the network resources. Resource entity 435 can include a data set ID to associate resource entity 435 with the appropriate data set, a resource ID to identify a particular resource, a maximum capacity to represent the maximum accommodation for the resource, a maximum physical capacity to represent the actual physical capacity available for a resource and expected use capacity to represent the probable use for the resource. It should be noted that the maximum capacity might exceed the actual physical capacity of a resource. For instance, as most travelers have experienced, airlines often overbook flights by allowing for a maximum capacity on a plane that is greater than the actual physical capacity of the plane.

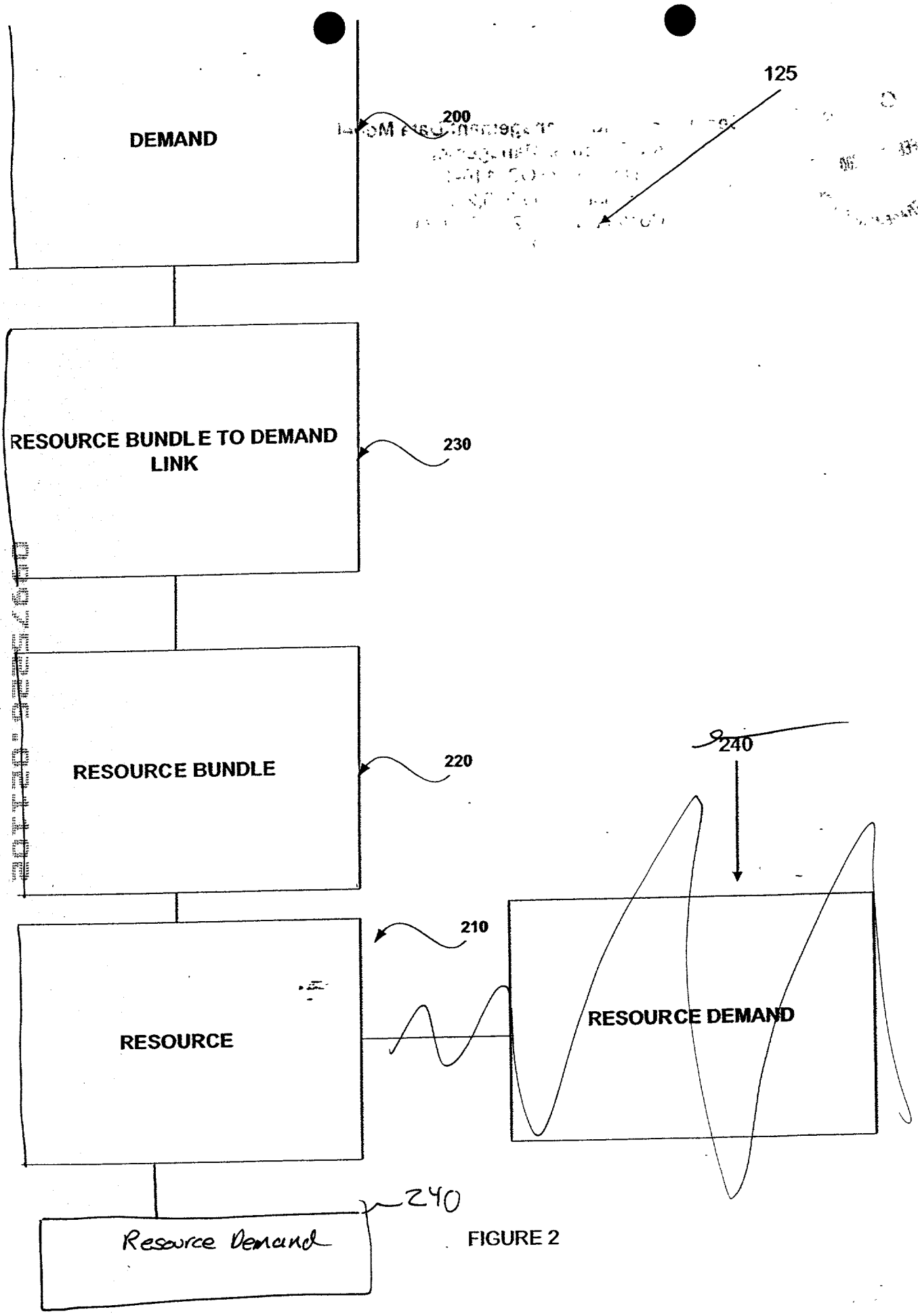
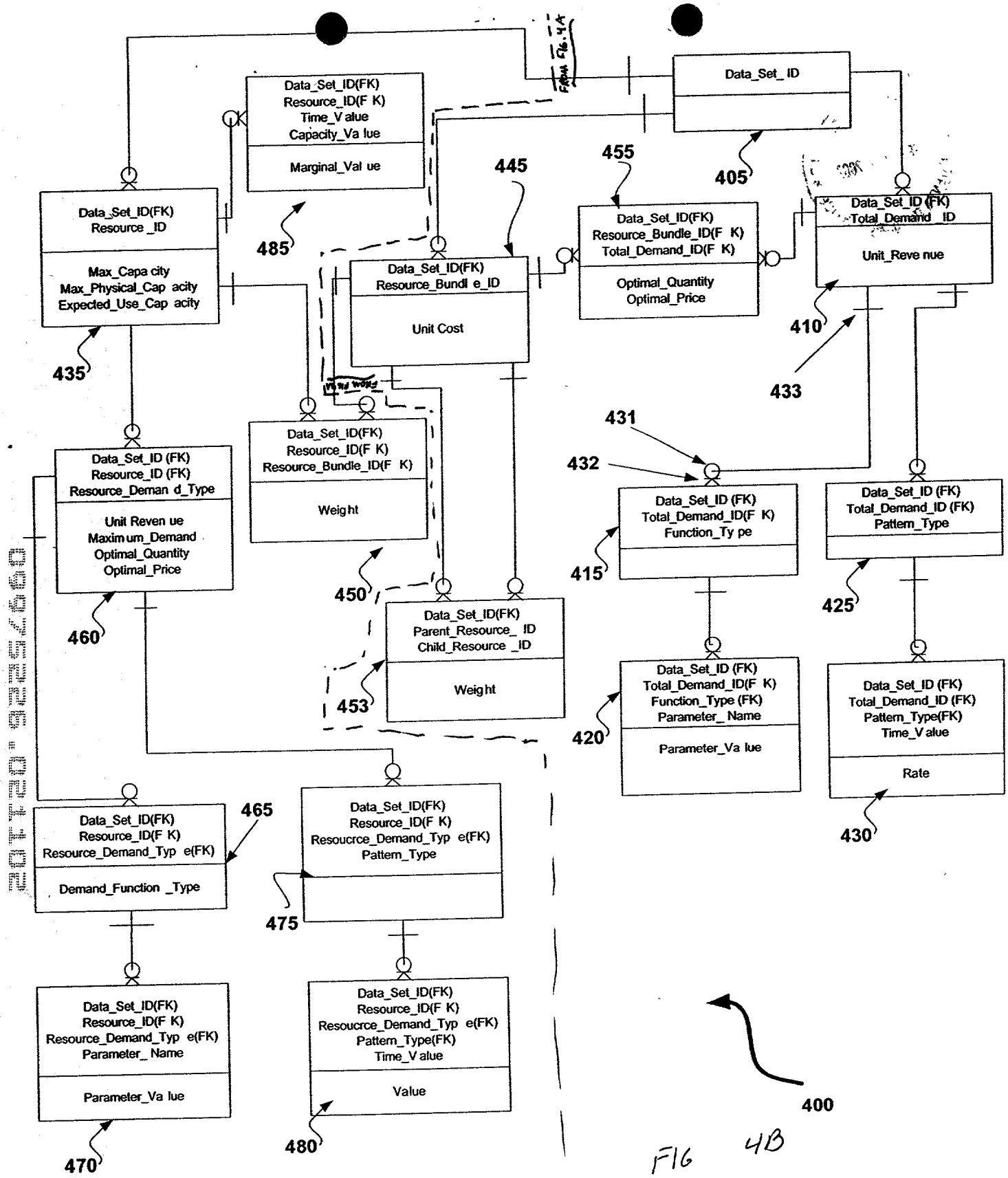

DEMAND
125
200
RESOURCE BUNDLE TO DEMAND LINK
230
RESOURCE BUNDLE
220
240
RESOURCE
210
RESOURCE DEMAND
240
Resource Demand

FIGURE 2



F16 4A F16 4B

Figure 4

M.M

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Carolyn J. Williams

LETTER TO OFFICIAL DRAFTSPERSON

Applicants hereby submit three (3) pages of drawings and respectfully request entry of these drawings. Applicants also submit redlined copies of FIGURE 2 and FIGURE 4.

REMARKS

Applicants have attached the drawing pages to replace the drawing pages submitted with the initial application. For clarity, FIGURE 4 of the informal drawings has been divided in FIGURE 4A and FIGURE 4B. Additionally, lines that were faint or "cut off" are now included in FIGURE 2 and "resource demand 240" has been placed in-line with "resource 210" rather than to the side. Applicants respectfully submit that the content of the drawings remains substantially the same and that no new matter has been added. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the drawings be approved.

While Applicants do not believe any fees are due and owing, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0456 of Gray Cary Ware & Freidenrich LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

Gray Cary Ware & Freidenrich LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

John L. Adair
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Dated: January 8, 2002

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